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Chile Intensifying Drive Against Extreme Leftist Organizations

The Chilean government has in recent weeks intensified its drive to destroy extreme leftist organizations. It clearly means to push ahead even at the cost of further foreign questions about human rights abuses in Chile.

The government arrest has shattered a plot by the Communist Party to assassinate President Pinochet and establish a Communist government by force. The party, unlike the other political groups that supported the Allende government, has managed to keep its organizational structure virtually intact, but even so it is not an immediate threat to the government. Security forces [REDACTED] have arrested a number of Communist leaders in the cities and are holding them incommunicado while searching for more.

In mid-October, the authorities arrested what appears to have been a

handful of the extreme Marxist wing of the Revolutionary Left in Santiago suburbs. Several extremists were killed in the ensuing battle and five were arrested. Among them was General Luis Andrea Pinochet Allende, the leader of the group, who is a nephew of the former president.

The security forces claim that Pinochet may have been wounded and that he and some of his colleagues are being tended by the Catholic clergy. Including some Americans and one being sought by the government.

The clergy has probably helped hiding leftists in the past, but it is uncertain whether they are involved in the latest incidents. High government officials have discounted the problem with Chile's undied, but Pinochet does not seem ready to push the issue to the point of completely alienating the Church.

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